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Sen. Schweiker Seeks Probe of Germ War Tests

United Press International

Sen. Richard S. Schweiker, (R-Pa.) wants the Senate to investigate the germ warfare tests the Army conducted in American cities in the 1950s and 1960s.

"It's incredible that these tests were ever considered, let alone conducted," Schweiker said in a statement Sunday.

He said he wondered "what it was we hoped to learn," and called the tests "a devastating repudiation of the ideals of human liberty that the Army and other organs of government are charged with defending."

The Army acknowledged last week that germ warfare tests were conducted in eight American cities between 1950 and 1966, including tests at the pentagon, in New York City subways and in San Francisco.

An Army spokesman said full reports on the experiments using bacteria described as "present throughout the environment" are buried in vaults in Utah and are not available. He said there is no proof the Army tests were linked to outbreaks of disease.

Schweiker said he will ask a Senate health subcommittee, on which he is the ranking Republican, to investigate the tests.

He said officials at the national Center for Disease Control in Atlanta called at least one of the bacterial agents used in the Army experiments, the fungus *aspergillus fumigatus*, "potentially fatal to humans."

"Other bacteriological agents tested by the Army are believed to cause pneumonia, particularly in infants, and the tests have been correlated with significant increases in the incidence of illness and death from pneumonia in the test areas," Schweiker said.

"The testing program also has been implicated in the death of one San Francisco man," he added.